**All Quiet on the Western Front-Erich Maria Remarque**

**Chapters 1-4**

**2/22/12**

**Summary**

In the beginning of this book we first learn about the main characters. The narrator is Paul Baumer. He describes the other members of his unit fighting in World War I. The men all go to visit Kemmerich a member who was injured and does not know that his leg has been amputated. In the second chapter Paul recalls his childhood and thinks about how it ended early along with many other soldiers in the war. Paul then learns that Kemmerich is very close to death. He goes to visit him and then he goes to find a doctor but when he returns Kemmerich is dead. In the third chapter there are new recruitments for Paul’s unit and most are younger than he is. Later all the men discuss Himmelstoss and they criticize him on how he disciplines the men. They all plan a way to get revenge on him after the war. In chapter four the men are sent to lay barbed wire at the front. The soldiers are bombarded and Paul helps protect one of the recruits. Later the soldiers are bombed again and are instructed to put on their gas masks and hide in holes in the ground. When the bombing stops they come out of their holes to find a recruit who is injured and they know he will not survive his injuries so they decide to take his life.

**Analysis**

So far this is a pretty good book. I liked learning about all the different characters. It really shows what life during World War I was like. It’s crazy that such young guys had to fight in the war. They all had to grow up really fast. There are a lot of disturbing scenes that I couldn’t imagine seeing if I was them. They had to watch so many people die and a lot of them got close to those who died. I couldn’t imagine having to take someone’s life that was suffering from an injury. But if they knew he wouldn’t survive his injury it was probably the best thing to do. I hope to learn more about Paul’s journey and I am anxious to see how the story ends.

**Application**

One characteristic that spans time and culture is the psychological aspect of human nature. To be that young and have to deal with and see everything that they are seeing in the war is amazing. Young people are not meant to see all of those people dying and they should not have to be killing others either. These men had to grow up very fast to be able to handle all of this. Another characteristic that spans time and culture is human roles and behaviors and how people lead. During wars someone has to step up and be a leader. When there are new recruits, Paul steps up and helps them out and tries to protect them before he protects himself. Another characteristic is human ideals and how humans strive for perfection. The reason for this war is people are trying to make their country better and they are helping protect their country. They are all trying to make the world a better place.